

WE ARE MANY UNITED AGAINST HATE



Masood Akhtar, President & Founder, We Are Many–United Against Hate

Masood Akhtar is an Indian-born proud American Muslim entrepreneur and activist. Akhtar has been living in the Madison area for over 30 years. Akhtar has founded and led multiple businesses and has also been actively involved with numerous community projects. One of Akhtar’s most visible efforts is a statewide, nonpartisan movement he founded called We Are Many -United Against Hate with a focus on teaching forgiveness and peace, addressing the root causes of hate, bigotry, and racism, and building inclusive communities while empowering youth. Since economic insecurity is becoming a breeding ground for hate and a recruiting tool for hate groups, Akhtar has also started “Empowering Students for Success” organization to provide interest-free loan and mentors to students from low- and medium-income families to get higher education. Akhtar also served on Dane County’s “Immigration and Refugee Task Force” aimed to build trust between local law enforcement officials and the immigration and refugee communities and thus reduce fear. Akhtar is also a frequent keynote speaker/panelist/columnist/guest on TV shows.

In 2017, Akhtar was awarded “Certificate of Appreciation” by the Southern Poverty Law Center and his name has been added to the Wall of Tolerance in Montgomery, Alabama, to provide inspiration to all those who choose to take a stand against hatred. In 2017, Akhtar was awarded a “Certificate of Appreciation” by Sergeant Janesville Police Department; Lieutenant, Kenosha Police Department; and Director of Emergency Management, UW-Madison Police Department to recognize with deep gratitude the contributions made by Akhtar to the Wisconsin Command College Re-Trainer. In 2019, Akhtar received the prestigious national FBI’s 2018 Director’s Community Leadership Award at the FBI headquarters in Washington, DC from FBI Director Christopher Wray. In 2019, Akhtar received a Certificate of Achievement from Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers that states “all Wisconsinites should be inspired by Masood’s work and strive to unite together regardless of differences and seek to build a state and a country that is united against hate, bigotry, and racism.” Akhtar also was presented with the 2019 Manfred E. Swarsensky Humanitarian Service Award by the Rotary Club of Madison. In 2019, Akhtar was appointed to the Board of Friends of PBS Wisconsin. In 2020, Akhtar was named one of Wisconsin’s 48 most influential Asian American Leaders.



Daryl Johnson, domestic terrorism subject matter expert

Washington, D.C.

Daryl Johnson is one of the foremost experts on domestic extremist groups in the US. Beginning his career as a civilian in the US Army, Johnson has held a number of government positions, most recently as senior analyst at the Department of Homeland Security. He is currently the founder of DT Analytics, a private consulting firm for law enforcement. He is also regularly cited, featured, or quoted in media covering domestic extremist groups in the US, including the New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Newsweek, National Public Radio, MSNBC, CNN, and NBC Nightly News, among many others. He is the author of “Hateland: A Long, Hard Look at America’s Extremist Heart” (Prometheus Books, 2019) and “Right-Wing Resurgence: How a Domestic Terrorism Threat Is Being Ignored” (Rowman & Littlefield, 2012). Johnson is also a freelance writer for various media and civil rights

organizations. In 2012, he testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee on hate crimes and the threat of domestic extremism.



Ryan Lo’Ree, former Neo-Nazi

Swartz Creek, Michigan

Ryan Lo’Ree is as an Interventionist and Program Specialist, and is involved in producing ICSVE counter narrative content. Ryan was once a right-wing extremist with the Rollingwood Skins, a Michigan-based offshoot of the largest Nazi movement in the United States. While in the organization, he moved up the ranks quickly to become Vice President. In his role, he was responsible for mainstreaming

hate groups on social media. To finance these efforts, Ryan found himself in trouble with the law. After Ryan’s incarceration, he went through a process of transformation and healing centered around trauma associated with sexual, physical and mental abuse he endured from male family members.

As part of his healing and deradicalization, Ryan went on to create the Team Revelation Mixed Martial Arts, a program utilized to prevent troubled youth from entering gang and extremist cultures. They offered mentorship, leadership, and self-discipline training. The program’s success led to a partnership with local juvenile probation offices in Genesee and Shiawassee County. The program would go on to keep over 100 children from entering the school to prison pipeline. Ryan would later enter the political arena where he ran for County Commissioner going after political corruption, racial and environmental justice in his hometown. Ryan has now helped to organize hundreds of justice rallies across the country, and his research has been centered around environmental impacts and their links to violent extremism. Ryan has also helped to pull dozens of former extremists out of hate groups in Michigan where he had the assistance of several organizations around the country and state. Ryan has helped to pass policy and proclamations in Flint and surrounding areas. He brings his knowledge and expertise to organizations around the world combating polarization, structural injustice, racism, hate, and violent extremism.